Dear Phil,

10/11/84

Rear 1/8, I was in OSS and in State intelligence, from which I was fired in a pogrom (9 Jews, I mistaken identity) without any charges or hearings, rehired after a fight I arranged for and orgabized, quit and since then have been libelled by the FBI in its internal records. In fact State issued a public apology. Not very commonplace.

Jim was talking to me about his trip to Boston when he was interrupted and we haven't spoken since. I thought more after I wrote you and I've come to think that it would be better for both you and Jim for him to be left out of any approach to Ray. And don't mentioned Fensterwald to Ray as an acquaintance or he'll not trust you at all.

It is not easy to convey the actualities about all the Ray men to anyone else. It has to be lived and then the one who lives it finds it hard to believe that the actuality is actual. They have never really left their midwest Tobacco Road, they are racist (which is not really relevant in the King case), they are so radical right that it is in many areas indistinguishable from radical left, they are all inept, which is not to say unintelligent and they are not unintelligent, and given any choise, they will almost inevitably make the wrong choice. When we are together I'll give you details. But one illustration: Jerry Ray, quite literally, cannot talk while he is driving his car and make any turn. When he went wrong for the third time in three days with me as his passenger and a well-known route, he explained it to me as I do to you. And while Jimmy has his own kind of paranoia, he has little trouble trusting the untrustworthy. Just ask yourself, for example, why of all the lawyers in the world he selected Hanes, and then, after long thought, agreed to the Hale contracts. They are all blunderers.

When Jimmy had not been knocked off before his guilty plea, whether or not he ever got any messages, he had little to worry about on that score. We had long correspondence on this and he correctly understood my coded reference, scule on ice. There is a big difference between having reason to believe that he knew who did the job, and certainly by name and other identification he did not, and being able to prove it. Or even believing that if he could produce the proof it would help him. To simplify this, Jimmy has to understand that those associated with the man he refers to as Roual, his spelling but not pronunciation, are the only ones who could have set him up and thus the ones involved in the actual crime. He told me that the last time he saw Raoul, that afternoon, there was another man with him, at the flop-house. In your own thinking, why not try to visualize, as best you can, what Jimmy would regard as his best prospects for staying alive.

Excuse the haste. Time for the Ferraro-Bush bash.

Best regards,